



News Release

Contacts: U.S. Forest Service - Larry Sandoval, (307) 745-2420 or Aaron Voos, (307) 745-2323
Wyoming State Forestry Division – Cathy Lujan, (307) 757-7527
Arapaho Fire Public Information Line – (307) 298-0556

Arapaho Fire Update

(WHEATLAND, Wyo.) July 13, 2012 – Extensive containment and reduced fire activity on the Arapaho Fire helped facilitate the transition to a Type 3 Incident Management Team on Thursday. Despite this positive development, Incident Commander Mike Hostetler cautioned, “We still have hot spots remaining in parts of this fire that will continue to challenge fire operations.”

Hostetler’s team expects many of these hot spots on the west and northwest portions of the fire to persist, some possibly until a season-ending precipitation event can help suppress them. Fortunately, most spots are surrounded by burned out fuels or non combustible features such as rock outcrops. However, some do have pockets of fuels that have the potential to burn and put up visible smoke columns.

A Wildland Fire Module has been assigned to the fire. The module comes with expertise in the areas of fire monitoring, ignition holding and suppression, hazard fuels reduction, and fire effects monitoring. They will help clarify long-term fire management strategies and contingency plans, particularly for those unlined portions on the western flank.

Fire operations will focus on mop-up, patrol and initial attack of any new fire starts. Helicopters will be used to suppress hot spots that are inaccessible by ground crews. Rehabilitation of roads and interior fire lines will also continue.

A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team has been ordered to assess the need for emergency stabilization to protect soil and water resources. They will also assess the need for monitoring and treatment of invasive plant species that have the potential to encroach onto burned areas.

Due to the potential for fire activity to pick back up, the following roads, areas and recreation sites/features remain closed for public and firefighter safety.

Closed Roads

- Garrett/County Rd 61 Jct to Garrett/Palmer Canyon Rd Jct
- Esterbrook/Braae Jct to Esterbrook/County Rd 61 Jct
- Fish Creek Road to the Harris Park Rd Jct
- Bear Creek Road

The public is also reminded to be aware and alert for fire-related traffic on roads that are open for their use and enjoyment.

Closed Forest Areas, Trails and Facilities

All Forest Service lands, recreation sites, roads and trails east of Esterbrook Road. Trails include Laramie Peak Trail (#602); North Laramie River Trail (#625); Friend Park Trail (#609); Harris Park Trail (#616); and Roaring Fork Trail (#623). Trailheads include Laramie Peak Trailhead and North Laramie Trailhead. Recreation sites include Esterbrook Campground and Friend Park Campground. The public is reminded that these closures are for their safety and their continued patience and cooperation is appreciated.

More details and facts on the Arapaho Fire are available at www.inciweb.org/incident/2959. Fire information is also available by calling (307) 298-0556. For statewide fire information please go to WSFD <https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/wsfd-fire-information/>

For information on structures that may have been impacted by the fire, residents should contact the following County Emergency Managers:

- Albany County, Rick Jansen, (307) 721-1815
- Platte County, Jane Carlson, (307) 322-2140
- Converse County, Russ Dalgarn, (307) 359-3444

###